

Steven Daniel

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EDUCATION

M.Sc. Financial Engineering <i>WorldQuant University</i>	Washington, USA (Online) <i>Oct. 2025 – Present</i>
B.Sc. (Hons.) Information Systems – GPA: 3.74 – Best Graduating Student (Department) <i>University of Sierra Leone</i>	Freetown, Sierra Leone <i>Feb. 2015 – Feb. 2019</i>

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

UNDP IICPSD – Virtual Digital Business Incubation Business Incubation Fellow	Remote (Turkey) Sept. 2025 – Nov. 2025
- Selected as a participant in the UNDP International Islamic Centre for Private Sector Development (IICPSD) Virtual Digital Business Incubation, a structured entrepreneurship program co-delivered with HP LIFE focused on building digital business ventures from concept to launch. - Trained in core entrepreneurship frameworks including Design Thinking, Business Model Canvas, Value Proposition design, customer discovery, brand positioning, and go-to-market strategy. - Completed 10 HP LIFE certified courses spanning: Starting a Small Business, Design Thinking, Unique Value Proposition, Your Target Audience, Selling Online, Social Media Marketing, Sales Forecasting, Basics of Finance, Agile Project Management, and Data Science & Analytics. - Applied business frameworks to develop a full-cycle entrepreneurship capstone project: - Conducted market research using Buyer Persona, Empathy Map, and Customer Journey Mapping to identify underserved payment infrastructure gaps in emerging markets. - Built a comprehensive Business Plan, Financial Forecast, and Software Requirements Document for NexusPay, a digital fintech startup designed to simplify cross-border payments and financial access. - Developed pitch deck and competitive analysis (UVP Competitive Analysis Matrix), and delivered a live investor-style presentation to program stakeholders.	
Developers Foundry Fellowship – Tech4Dev (Remote) AI/ML Fellow	Remote (Nigeria) Nov. 2024 – December 2025
- Selected for an intensive fellowship program designed to advance participants from entry-level to mid-level expertise in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning - Trained in Python programming, machine learning, Deep Learning, and real-world applications across data-driven domains. - Gained practical experience in data storytelling, communication in technical environments, and professional soft skills (public speaking, networking and online presence) - Developed machine learning APIs for predictive modelling projects, including - Titanic Survival Prediction – Random Forest Classifier and REST API - Market Segmentation (Marketing campaign dataset) – clustering analysis using K-Means - Food-101 Classifier, image recognizer, Gender Recognizer – deep learning with Pytorch CNNs and transfer learning - MINST image and NLP models – handwritten digit recognition. - Completed 2 capstone projects:	

- Built a market segmentation clustering analysis model using K-Means to enforce understanding of ML concepts and data visualization and data storytelling.
- Built a Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) Chatbot, integrating natural language processing, vector embeddings, vector databases, and API-based inference.

Frontier Tech Leaders Programme Machine Learning Bootcamp (UNDP IICPSD)

Istanbul, Türkiye

Frontier Tech Leader

Aug. 2023 – 12/2023

- Selected as a first cohort alumnus of the UNDP IICPSD Frontier Tech Leaders Programme, a global initiative equipping emerging professionals with advanced skills in machine learning, data science, and entrepreneurship.
- Completed a Python Bootcamp using the University of Michigan's "Python for Everybody" specialization, with guided tutoring and peer-led mentoring sessions.
- Trained in machine learning through Stanford University's Machine Learning Specialization, focusing on supervised learning, advanced learning algorithms, unsupervised learning, transfer learning and reinforcement learning.
- Undertook professional development in entrepreneurship, communication, and innovation through HP LIFE and Agile with Atlassian Jira courses, applying agile principles to technology project management.
- Developed strong soft skills in public speaking, workplace communication, and leadership through continuous mentorship and collaborative group projects.
- Capstone Project: Flood Prediction Model for Resilient Communities in Sierra Leone; designed and implemented a predictive analytics system using real-time weather and rainfall data to forecast flood risks and support disaster resilience planning.

WORK EXPERIENCE

United Nations Volunteer – Local Chapter Community Support – UNDP IICPSD

Istanbul, Türkiye (Remote)

Aug. 2024 – Jan 2025

- Supported the Frontier Tech Leaders (FTL) Sierra Leone Local Chapter by organizing virtual events, workshops, and training sessions.
- Developed technical content and coordinated monthly meetups to enhance member engagement.
- Facilitated communication across FTL communities through Discord and digital collaboration channels.
- Liaised with university student clubs and tech communities to expand FTL outreach in Sierra Leone.
- Maintained detailed event reports, participant feedback, and activity outcomes under the supervision of the FTL Technical Team.

United Nations Volunteer – Volunteer Training for Python support – UNDP IICPSD

Istanbul, Türkiye (Remote)

Mar. 2024

- Conducted online Python programming sessions for FTL Machine Learning Bootcamp second cohort.
- Taught SQL module from the University of Michigan's "Python for Everybody" specialization, ensuring conceptual and practical understanding.
- Led live coding demonstrations and Q&A sessions.
- Designed learning materials and assignments that reinforced SQL s and Python programming concepts.
- Collaborated with the UNDP Frontier Tech Leaders Training Team to monitor progress and assess participant outcomes

Project Manager – ICT Consultancy and General Services (SL Limited)

Freetown, Sierra Leone (Hybrid)

May 2019 – Sep. 2023

- Led end-to-end management of ICT projects from concept to deployment for public and private sector clients
- Designed and implemented software systems, coordinated testing, and produced documentation to improve usability and system reliability.
- Facilitated stakeholder workshops and user-training sessions for digital transformation projects.
- Developed project proposals and concept notes for technology-driven initiatives.

Network Operations Center (NOC) Engineer – Africell Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Dec. 2020 – Sep. 2022

- Monitored and optimized telecom network nodes (BSS, NSS, IN) ensuring operational continuity.
- Managed incident tickets, system alerts, and field operations for 24/7 service reliability.
- Analyzed performance metrics to detect network anomalies and improve fault response times.

Data Entry Clerk – University of Sierra Leone (IPAM)

Freetown, Sierra Leone (Hybrid)

Oct. 2021 – Sep. 2022

- Maintained and validated academic data within the university's e-learning platform.
- Ensured accuracy and completeness of student records through automated data checks.
- Supported migration of student records to a cloud-based digital system.

PROJECTS

Comparative Sentiment Analysis of Twitter Data

Personal Project - 2026

- Created a Sentiment Analysis of Twitter (X) dataset using RandomForest, Logistic Regression, SVM, BERTweet, VADER and TextBlob
- Integrating analytics, data visualization, and predictive insights for tweets and other Sentiment data to demonstrate my Natural Language Processing (NLP) Skills
- [Link to GitHub](#)
- [Link to Project](#)

Personal Portfolio Website

Personal Project - 2026

- Created a portfolio website to display my CV, projects, and skills.
- Created a full-stack website (front-end and back-end) with a CMS to manage the site
- [Link to GitHub](#)
- [Link to Project](#)

Tricycle Management System

Personal Project - 2026

- Developed a comprehensive tricycle (keke) fleet management system for tracking daily remittances, expenses, maintenance schedules, and break-even analysis..
- Dashboard with KPI cards: today's remittance, total collected, days logged, and maintenance alerts
- [Link to GitHub](#)
- [Link to Project](#)

Flood Prediction Model for Resilient Communities in Sierra Leone (2023)

UNDP IICPSD Frontier Tech Leaders Programme, in collaboration with SDG AI Lab, UN Technology Bank, and Government of Türkiye

- Developed an ML flood forecasting model using rainfall, humidity, and temperature data to support disaster mitigation; aligned with UN SDG 13 – Climate Action.
- [Link to project](#)
- [Link to GitHub](#)

Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) Chatbot

Developers Foundry Fellowship – Capstone Project (2025)

- Designed and implemented a retrieval-augmented generation chatbot integrating semantic search and large-language-model reasoning.

- Built knowledge retrieval pipelines, fine-tuned embeddings, and deployed the model via REST API for real-time contextual responses.
- [Link to GitHub](#)

Food-101 Image Classifier API

Developers Foundry Fellowship – 2025

- Built and deployed a deep-learning food-image classifier using PyTorch CNNs and transfer learning.
- Developed an API for serving predictions, supporting image uploads and returning real-time classification results for 101 food categories.
- [Link to GitHub](#)

Titanic Survival Prediction API

Developers Foundry Fellowship – 2025

- Created a machine-learning API predicting passenger survival probabilities on the Titanic dataset.
- Implemented end-to-end model development – data cleaning, feature engineering, training (random forest classifier, XGBoost & Neural network), and API deployment using Flask.
- [Link to GitHub](#)

CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- **Foundations of Financial Engineering** – WorldQuant University (*April, 2026*)
- **Applied AI Lab: AI for Computer Vision** – WorldQuant University (*April, 2026*)
- **Deep Learning Fundamentals Lab** – WorldQuant University (*March, 2026*)
- **CS50x: CS50's Introduction to Computer Science** – Harvard University (*2026*)
- **AI/ML Fellowship certificate** – Developers Foundry Fellowship (Tech4Dev) – December 2025
- **Applied Data Science Lab** – WorldQuant University (*2025*)
- **Natural Language Processing with Classification and Vector Spaces** – DeepLearning.AI (*2025*)
- **Stanford Code in Place** – Stanford University (*2025*)
- **Machine Learning Specialization** – DeepLearning.AI & Stanford University (*Coursera, 2024*)
- **Python for Everybody Specialization** – University of Michigan (*Coursera, 2024*)
- **Machine Learning Bootcamp** – UNDP IICPSD, Istanbul (*2023*)
- **Agile with Atlassian Jira** – Atlassian University (*Coursera, 2023*)
- **Google UX Design Specialization** – Google (*Coursera, 2022*)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming:** Python, Django, Flask, SQL, MongoDB (Basic), JavaScript (Basic), C (basic)
- **AI & ML Tools:** PyTorch, Scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy, Computer Vision, NLP, Generative AI
- **Visualization:** Power BI, Matplotlib, Plotly, Seaborn, Dash
- **Other:** Git, Docker, REST APIs, Streamlit

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- **Best Graduating Student** (*Information Systems Department*) – University of Sierra Leone (*2017/2018*)
- **Academic Excellence Award** – UNDP IICPSD Machine Learning Bootcamp (*2023*)

LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- **English** – Native/Fluent (Academic and Professional)

- **Turkish** – C1 Certified limited speaking proficiency

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Computer vision and its application in health, agriculture, finance, education and the environment
- AI in finance, health, and Education
- Machine Learning/Deep Learning
- Quantitative Finance
- Portfolio Optimization
- Risk Modelling
- Derivative/Pricing
- Time-Series Finance
- LLMs
- AI-Driven Data Ecosystems
- Embedded systems and robotics.
- Drone Technology
- Climate Resilience & Environmental Informatics

REFERENCES

Available upon request